

# Immersion in Culture and Language in Guadalajara, México

## FRANKLIN COLLEGE

### WINTER TERM COURSE--JANUARY 2009

3-credit course/satisfies international requirement or, **w/ approval from Professor Colburn-Alsop, may be considered as class credit (3 cr) toward the Spanish minor or major.**

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of SPA 210 course or 3-4 years high school experience. If you have worked with either Professor Colburn-Alsop or Professor Alsop previously, you need only one other recommendation from a faculty member who has worked with you in a course and possesses excellent knowledge about your adaptability, responsibility, maturity, etc. If you have not worked with the aforementioned professors, you will need two letters of recommendation from other Franklin College Faculty and a meeting with the professors to assess your Spanish skills level.

**Important Note:** Students with serious medical conditions (i.e. asthma, heart conditions, knee/leg problems) will not be permitted to travel on this trip as it is a physically rigorous program with walking tours averaging three to five miles per day. Additionally, the pollution level is much higher than the U.S. and can be problematic for the asthmatic.

#### Staff and Administration:

- **Directors of Program:** Professor Sara Colburn-Alsop
- [scolburnalsop@franklincollege.edu](mailto:scolburnalsop@franklincollege.edu) 738-8257
- **Assistant Director:** Professor Dan Alsop
- **Teaching Coordinator:** Licenciada Marcela Ruíz

#### Assistant Teaching Coordinator:

- **Family Coordinator:** Señora Vicky Guzmán de Aldana

#### Required Materials for course:

Small two-subject notebook for daily journal and note-taking

#### Course Description:

The principal objective of this three-week trip is to give students an authentic experience in the Spanish language and Mexican culture in Guadalajara, Mexico. Students will increase their language proficiency in Spanish and expand their knowledge of the Mexican culture by living with a carefully chosen host family (2 students per home) and interacting with a team of experienced teachers in Guadalajara. This program consists of five hours of daily one-on-one oral/aural practice with teachers from Guadalajara. The city of Guadalajara serves as the classroom for students to observe and learn about its people, culture, history, and language. Students meet each morning in the historic city and are paired with a different teacher and cultural tour. The rotation of teachers and guided tours exposes the student to a wide variety of accents, personalities, and aspects of Mexican culture. In addition to daily classes, other activities, such as a weekend trip to Puerto Vallarta, classes in ceramics, singing, tutoría cultural, and dance (students will exhibit their artwork and present their dances/songs learned to teachers/families at the final party), and family/teacher/student social gatherings, are important

components of the program. Upon return from Guadalajara, all participating students will contribute to the trip web page and present a cultural perspective of their experience abroad to the campus community.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To learn about the Hispanic people and culture through daily interaction with Mexican teachers and family.
2. To become more confident and comfortable in speaking and listening.
3. To learn the history and culture of Guadalajara, México.
4. To challenge yourself mentally and physically in this new environment.
5. To allow yourself to consider other perceptions of the world that may challenge your current stance.

**Evaluation of Performance:**

**◆ Participation and Effort (prior to and during trip) 50%**

This includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Attendance at (3) **Mandatory** Meetings prior to trip / Meeting deadlines on paperwork and organizational materials /**Making all payments by dates requested**
- High Level of Professionalism/Responsibility/Maturity
- General positive attitude toward new experiences and Mexican people
- Respect for the culture, coordinators, teachers, roommates and others in group and program in general.
- Honoring language code (Spanish at all times, except in the case of emergency).
- Honoring the **signed** responsibility contract, which includes honoring the alcohol/drug policy and all other rules listed and initialed by participant & parent/legal guardian
- Prompt return of all documents needed for travel and meeting general deadlines for materials (prior to trip and during it) and every day attendance while on the trip.
- **Signed Contract Returned By Date Requested and Quiz (to be taken before trip in final meeting)**

**◆ Formal 5-Minute Oral Presentation in Spanish (while in Guadalajara) 25%**

The formal oral presentation functions as a culminating activity that allows the student to reflect upon what she has learned from the daily tours and interactions with the Mexican teachers and other people. The topic, formal in nature, must treat Mexican culture **respectfully** in some shape or form. You may choose to examine your comprehension/perception about Mexican history, art, religion, politics, family, food, etc. You will be allowed a note card with **five to seven key words**, but you will be penalized **severely** for simply reading off the card. The daily notes you take on the tours and the journal you keep should assist you in preparation for your presentation.

**The oral presentation will be based on the following criterion:**

Selection of topic	25%
Preparation of topic	25%
Presentation of topic / Communication of idea	25%
Enthusiasm	25%

◆ **Journal and Notes (to be written in Spanish)** **15%**

Each student will be required to keep a trip journal (1 entry per day (1/2 to 1 page) that charts *personal observations/insights* about tours/people/history/culture, *critical incidents* that highlight a learning experience (good/bad) and how you responded to it, and *general reflections* on culture and the experience. Also, students may wish to bring the journal with them to class every day to jot down new vocabulary words/expressions and to take notes on what they learn (may serve in preparation for your oral presentation and for the Rally). The journal will be collected prior to the end of the three-week tour. Therefore, I anticipate that the entry data will be a daily process and anticipate that all students will be prepared to hand it when it's requested. Points will be reduced from this portion of the final grade if it is clear to me that the student did not take the time to write an entry, *at the very least*, every other day.

◆ **Create Trip Webpage** **10%**

**Duration of Trip:** The group will depart Saturday, January 3<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and return Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup> we will work with Vicki Mast in TLTC on webpage. All web pages/materials are due by January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to be assessed for a grade.

**Total for three-week period per person= \$2500\***

**Includes:**

- Round-trip airfare between Indianapolis and Guadalajara \$800-900
- Room and Board (all meals included) \$600
- Instructional Costs (paying the teachers) \$220.00→\$270.00
- Dance/Art Classes \$75.00
- Mexican Coordination Costs (paying family coordinator) \$150.00
- In-country transportation (buses, taxis, Puerto Vallarta) \$300.00
- Miscellaneous Group Activities (supplies for get togethers, evening activities, final party, etc.) \$200.00
- All-Inclusive Hotel in Puerto Vallarta \$400\*

\*Indicates an estimate, but price may be subject to change based on transportation and hotel accommodation costs.

**Does not include:**

- Transportation money needed to ride buses daily and for taxis (evening) \$100
- Nominal costs incurred on daily cultural tours (museums, refreshments, etc.) \$10-15 ***Be sure to bring student ID for student discount in museums***
- Weekend trip to Mazamitla (breakfast?/horseback riding)
- Medical Insurance / Travel Insurance
- Personal Entertainment???
- Gifts/souvenirs???

Best option is debit card, but if you don't have one, bring Traveler's Checks in 10's and 20's and a little cash) \$500-600

**Type of Transportation:** Airplane (round-trip from Indy) and Luxury Bus (in Guadalajara for weekend trips)

**Type of housing/accommodations:** Home stay with carefully chosen host families that have participated with Butler University (sister-program that runs three weeks in the summer) for over eleven years. Franklin College has stayed with the families in January 2003, 2005, and 2007.

**Payment deadlines :**

**Friday, May 9, 2008**                      **\$100** Confirm your spot on the trip (refundable).

**Friday, September 12, 2008**                      **\$700** \*Please be advised that this date all payments are non-refundable

**Friday, October 10, 2008**                      **\$800**

**Friday, November 7, 2008**                      **\$900**

**All payments are to be made at the FC business office in the Guadalajara Immersion Account.**